state of utah

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

DOUGLAS F. DAY
Director

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Reply To NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
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Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1588 North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
Cleon B. Feight, Director

Mr. Feight:

We have briefly described the physical and biological characteristics of Birch creek and the primary management concerns of the Division for protecting this fishery. Because of the remoteness of the area, we have limited data on fish population sizes and the extent of any natural reproduction.

Birch creek is a class III stream, approximately 4.0 miles in length. We have no stream flow patterns, although mid-summer flows are generally between 2-3 cfs.

The watershed is confined to a steep canyon which courses through a sagebrush-shrub area of rolling hills. The headwaters and side drainages are typically silt-loam soils, predominated vegetatively with conifers, sagebrush and grasses. In general, the system is in fair condition, with progressive gully eroison the most significant watershed problem. Management programs to improve the exsisting fishery habitat would include the protection of riparian habitat and cover development.

Physically, the condition of the stream is fair to good. Present volumes and velocities are adequate. The present combination of pools and riffles and composition of bottom materials (gravels, rubbles and boulders) is good.

The productivity of the stream, in terms of fish numbers, size and condition is fair. Game fish species include brook and brown trout. We have no information on the extent of natural reproduction which occurs in the stream. A periodic fish stocking program has included several plants of fingerling brook trout. We have no record of stocking brown trout and assume that the present brown trout are self-sustaining.

Fisherman use and harvest is light, principally sustained by local residents.

Our major management concerns with Birch creek are to maintain the exsisting fishery by protecting riparian habitat and protecting exsisting stream flows. We consider protecting the integrity of stream bottom types and the present combination of pools and riffles as important to maintaining the stream.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to provide you with our comments on the value of this resource.

feeder stream into Grouse Creek

Sincerely,

Jack Rensel

JacK Rensel
Regional Supervisor